

Maryland Child and Family Services Review Data Profile: October 22, 2003

I. CHILD SAFETY PROFILE	Calendar Year 2000						<u>Calendar Year 2001</u>						<u>Calendar Year 2002</u>					
	Reports	%	Duplic. Childn. ²	%	Unique Childn. ²	%	Reports	%	Duplic. Childn. ²	%	Unique Childn. ²	%	Reports	%	Duplic. Childn. ²	%	Unique Childn. ²	%
I. Total CA/N Reports Disposed ¹	30,985						32,259 ^A											
II. Disposition of CA/N Reports ³																		
Substantiated & Indicated	15,781	50.9					16,020		19,750 ^B				15,448		15,843		14,452	
Unsubstantiated	12,922	41.7					C						C					
Other	2,282	7.4					2,228											
III. Child Cases Opened for Services ⁴							5,090	25.8					2,415	15.2	2,151	14.9		
IV. Children Entering Care Based on CA/N Report ⁵							1,689	8.6					1,463	9.2	1,274	8.8		
V. Child Fatalities ⁶			D						27						D		D	
<u>STATEWIDE AGGREGATE DATA USED TO DETERMINE SUBSTANTIAL CONFORMITY</u>																		
VI. Recurrence of Maltreatment ⁷ [Standard: 6.1% or less]																	590 of 7,400	8.0
VII. Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care ⁸ (for Jan-Sept) [Standard: 0.57% or less]					of 15,461	E					of 14,735	E					50 of 9,612	0.5 2 E

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FOOTNOTES TO DATA ELEMENTS IN CHILD SAFETY PROFILE

Each maltreatment allegation reported to NCANDS is associated with a disposition or finding that is used to derive the counts provided in this safety profile. The safety profile uses three categories. The various terms that are used in NCANDS reporting have been collapsed into these three groups.

Disposition Category	Safety Profile Disposition	NCANDS Disposition Codes Included
A	Substantiated or Indicated (Maltreatment Victim)	"Substantiated," "Indicated," and "Alternative Response Disposition Victim"
B	Unsubstantiated	"Unsubstantiated," "Unsubstantiated, Other than Intentionally False Reporting" and "Unsubstantiated Due to Intentionally False Reporting"
C	Other	"Closed-No Finding," "Alternative Response Disposition – Not a Victim," "Other," and "Unknown or Missing"

Alternative Response was added starting with the 2000 data year. The two categories of Unsubstantiated were added starting with the 2000 day year. In earlier years there was only the category of Unsubstantiated

1. The data element, "Total CA/N Reports Disposed," is based on the reports received in the State that received a disposition in the reporting period under review. The number shown may include reports received during a previous year that received a disposition in the reporting year. Counts based on "reports," "duplicated counts of children," and "unique counts of children" are provided.
2. The duplicated count of children (report-child pairs) counts a child each time that (s)he was reported. The unique count of children counts a child only once during the reporting period, regardless of how many times the child was reported.
3. For the column labeled "Reports," the data element, "Disposition of CA/N Reports," is based on upon the highest disposition of any child who was the subject of an investigation in a particular report. For example, if a report investigated two children, and one child is found to be neglected and the other child found not to be maltreated, the report disposition will be substantiated (Group A). The disposition for each child is based on the specific finding related to the maltreatment(s). In other words, of the two children above, one is a victim and is counted under "substantiated" (Group A) and the other is not a victim and is counted under "unsubstantiated" (Group B). In determining the unique counts of children, the highest finding is given priority. If a child is found to be a victim in one report (Group A), but not a victim in a second report (Group B), the unique count of children includes the child only as a victim (Group A). The category of "other" (Group C) includes children whose report may have been "closed without a finding," children for whom the allegation disposition is "unknown," and other dispositions that a State is unable to code as substantiated, indicated, alternative response victim, or unsubstantiated.
4. The data element, "Child Cases Opened for Services," is based on the number of victims (Group A) during the reporting period under review. "Opened for Services" refers to post-investigative services. The duplicated number counts each time a victim's report is linked to on-going

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services; the unique number counts a victim only once regardless of the number of times services are linked to reports of substantiated maltreatment.

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5. The data element, "Children Entering Care Based on CA/N Report," is based on the number of victims (Group A) during the reporting period under review. The duplicated number counts each time a victim's report is linked to a foster care removal date. The unique number counts a victim only once regardless of the number of removals that may be reported.
6. The data element "Child Fatalities" counts the number of children reported to NCANDS as having died as a result of child abuse and/or neglect. Depending upon State practice, this number may count only those children for whom a case record has been opened either prior to or after the death, or may include a number of children whose deaths have been investigated as possibly related to child maltreatment. For example, some States include neglected-related deaths such as those caused by motor vehicle or boating accidents, house fires or access to firearms, under certain circumstances. The percentage is based on a count of unique victims of maltreatment for the reporting period. The count also includes fatalities that have been reported on the Agency File, which collects non-child welfare information system data.
7. The data element, "Recurrence of Maltreatment," is defined as follows: Of all children associated with a "substantiated," "indicated," or "alternative response victim" finding of maltreatment during the first six months of the reporting period, what percentage had another "substantiated," "indicated," or "alternative response victim" finding of maltreatment within a 6-month period. The number of victims during the first six month period and the number of these victims who were recurrent victims within six months are provided. This data element is used to determine, in part, the State's substantial conformity with Safety Outcome #1.
8. The data element, "Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care," is defined as follows: Of all children who were served in foster care during the reporting period, what percentage were found to be victims of maltreatment. A child is counted as having been maltreated in foster care if the perpetrator of the maltreatment was identified as a foster parent or residential facility staff. Counts of children maltreated in foster care are derived from NCANDS, while counts of children placed in foster care are derived from AFCARS. The observation period for these measures is January-September because this is the reporting period jointly addressed by both NCANDS and AFCARS. For both measures, the number of children found to be maltreated in foster care and the percentage of all children in foster care are provided. This data element is used to determine, in part, the State's substantial conformity with Safety Outcome #2.

Additional Footnotes

- A. Duplicated count of households with CPS investigations began in CY 2001.
- B. CPS staff in Maryland began identifying children as victims of maltreatment three years ago. As of 2001, data were entered on 50% of the investigations. The numbers in this section were estimated based on the percentage of cases that have an entry.
- C. MD has the disposition category "ruled out" for situations of maltreatment that cannot be substantiated. Such reports are required to be expunged from the data base within 120 of their receipt. At this point, the data system does not maintain data that can be retrieved on such cases. Therefore, complete counts of Unsubstantiated reports and children associated with them are unavailable.
- D. In 2000, MD did not report on fatalities. In 2002, MD reported 33 fatalities in the Agency file only.
- E. Previously, Maryland had only submitted summary data (shown in this table as Duplicate Children), and not data by individual child, which made it impossible for the Children's Bureau to calculate the two safety indicators. Those require unique child data. For 2002, the State did submit a child file, but there are continuing issues with it that are yet to be resolved. Only 34% of victims in the file are associated with perpetrators. As a result, reporting on perpetrators is incomplete. The data shown for 2002 are from an

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alternate data source. With ACF approval, the State did a manual count and used an appropriate denominator so as to maintain the logic used in the standard calculation of this item.

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II. POINT-IN-TIME PERMANENCY PROFILE	Federal FY 2000		<u>Federal FY 2001</u>		<u>Federal FY 2002</u>	
	<u># of Children</u>	<u>% of Children</u>	<u># of Children</u>	<u>% of Children</u>	<u># of Children</u>	<u>% of Children</u>
I. Foster Care Population Flow						
Children in foster care on first day of year	12,295		11,966		11,848	
Admissions during year	3,928		3,662		3,563	
Discharges during year	3,110		3,064		3,445	
Children in care on last day of year	13,113		12,564		12,026	
Net change during year	+818		+598		+178	
<u>II. Placement Types for Children in Care</u>						
Pre-Adoptive Homes	492	3.8	621	4.9	450	3.7
Foster Family Homes (Relative)	4,976	37.9	4,389	34.9	4,198	34.9
Foster Family Homes (Non-Relative)	3,750	28.6	4,749	37.8	4,385	36.5
Group Homes	1,266	9.7	1,304	10.4	1,416	11.8
Institutions	1,550	11.8	414	3.3	432	3.6
Supervised Independent Living	117	0.9	136	1.1	172	1.4
<u>Runaway</u>	67	0.5	91	0.7	140	1.2
<u>Trial Home Visit</u>	714	5.4	722	5.7	660	5.5
<u>Missing Placement Information</u>	162	1.2	98	0.8	155	1.3
<u>Not Applicable (Placement in subsequent year)</u>	19	0.1	40	0.3	18	0.1
<u>III. Permanency Goals for Children in Care</u>						
Reunification	4,150	31.6	3,892	31.0	3,841	31.9
Live with Other Relatives	2,206	16.8	1,989	15.8	1,827	15.2

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Adoption	2,535	19.3	2,670	21.3	2,432	20.2
Long Term Foster Care	2,180	16.6	2,104	16.7	2,290	19.0
Emancipation	1,271	9.7	1,312	10.4	1,331	11.1
Guardianship	371	2.8	224	1.8	89	0.7
<u>Case Plan Goal Not Established</u>	400	3.1	373	3.0	216	1.8
<u>Missing Goal Information</u>	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

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II. POINT-IN-TIME PERMANENCY PROFILE (continued)	Federal FY 2000		Federal FY 2001		Federal FY 2002	
	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children
IV. Number of Placement Settings in Current Episode						
One	5,135	39.2	4,653	37.0	4,280	35.6
Two	3,992	30.4	3,734	29.7	3,701	30.8
Three	1,961	15.0	2,083	16.6	1,903	15.8
Four	993	7.6	965	7.7	998	8.3
Five	548	4.2	534	4.3	496	4.1
Six or more	484	3.7	595	4.7	629	5.2
Missing placement settings	0	0.0	0	0.0	19	0.2
V. Number of Removal Episodes						
One	10,005	76.3	9,663	76.9	9,250	76.9
Two	2,508	19.1	2,360	18.8	2,251	18.7
Three	504	3.8	443	3.5	426	3.5
Four	94	0.7	65	0.5	76	0.6
Five	1	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Six or more	1	0.0	1	0.0	1	0.0
Missing removal episodes	0	0.0	32	0.3	21	0.2
VI. Number of children in care 17 of the most recent 22 months² (percent based on cases with sufficient information for computation)	4,171	65.3	4,049	64.4	3,882	63.9

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	<u>Number of Months</u>	Number of Months	Number of Months
<u>VII. Median Length of Stay in Foster Care</u> (of children in care on last day of FY)	33.6	34.6	34.0

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II. POINT-IN-TIME PERMANENCY PROFILE (continued)		Federal FY 2000		Federal FY 2001		Federal FY 2002		
		# of Children Discharged	Median Months to Discharge	# of Children Discharged	Median Months to Discharge	# of Children Discharged	Median Months to Discharge	
VIII. Length of Time to Achieve Perm. Goal								
	Reunification		1,879	9.0	1,845	10.3	1,964	11.5
Adoption		481	52.3	606	49.6	773	48.3	
Guardianship		142	20.5	102	17.2	19	15.5	
Other		312	41.3	318	46.7	503	59.3	
Missing Discharge Reason		296	10.8	192	9.5	126	4.6	
Missing Date of Latest Removal or Date Error ³		0	N/A	1	N/A	60	N/A	
Statewide Aggregate Data Used in Determining Substantial Conformity		# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children	
IX. Of all children who were reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care, what percentage was reunified in less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal for home? (4.1) [Standard: 76.2% or more]		1,039	55.3	1,008	54.6	1,014	50.3	
X. Of all children who exited care to a finalized adoption, what percentage exited care in less than 24 months from the time of the latest removal from home? (5.1) [Standard: 32.0% or more]		67	13.9	97	16.0	115	14.8	
XI. Of all children served who have been in foster care less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal from home, what percentage have had no more than two placement settings? (6.1) [Standard: 86.7% or more]		4,049	95.4	3,846	94.9	3,732	94.3	

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XII. Of all children who entered care during the year, what percentage re-entered foster care within 12 months of a prior foster care episode? (4.2) [Standard: 8.6% or less]	355	9.0 (79.5% new entry)	351	9.6 (79.6% new entry)	303	8.5 (79.7% new entry)
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III. PERMANENCY PROFILE <u>FIRST-TIME ENTRY</u> <u>COHORT GROUP</u>	Federal FY 2000		Federal FY 2001		Federal FY 2002	
	<u># of Children</u>	<u>% of Children</u>	<u># of Children</u>	<u>% of Children</u>	<u># of Children</u>	<u>% of Children</u>
I. Number of children entering care for the first time in cohort group (% = 1 st time entry of all entering within first 6 months)	1,563	80.3	1,405	80.6	1,363	79.8
<u>II. Most Recent Placement Types</u>						
Pre-Adoptive Homes	12	0.8	7	0.5	17	1.2
Foster Family Homes (Relative)	557	35.6	476	33.9	461	33.8
Foster Family Homes (Non-Relative)	590	37.7	604	43.0	543	39.8
Group Homes	115	7.4	118	8.4	126	9.2
Institutions	84	5.4	40	2.8	36	2.6
Supervised Independent Living	5	0.3	2	0.1	4	0.3
<u>Runaway</u>	3	0.2	7	0.5	14	1.0
<u>Trial Home Visit</u>	168	10.7	129	9.2	144	10.6
<u>Missing Placement Information</u>	25	1.6	17	1.2	11	0.8
<u>Not Applicable (Placement in subsequent yr)</u>	4	0.3	5	0.4	7	0.5
<u>III. Most Recent Permanency Goal</u>						
Reunification	1,160	74.2	1,072	76.3	1,018	74.7
Live with Other Relatives	153	9.8	109	7.8	153	11.2
Adoption	42	2.7	47	3.3	52	3.8

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Long-Term Foster Care	30	1.9	33	2.3	20	1.5
Emancipation	37	2.4	30	2.1	27	2.0
Guardianship	6	0.4	5	0.4	2	0.1
<u>Case Plan Goal Not Established</u>	135	8.6	109	7.8	91	6.7
<u>Missing Goal Information</u>	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

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III. PERMANENCY PROFILE FIRST-TIME ENTRY COHORT GROUP (continued)	Federal FY 2000		Federal FY 2001		Federal FY 2002	
	<u># of Children</u>	<u>% of Children</u>	<u># of Children</u>	<u>% of Children</u>	<u># of Children</u>	<u>% of Children</u>
IV. Number of Placement Settings in Current Episode						
One	1,058	67.7	981	69.8	924	67.8
Two	401	25.7	327	23.3	336	24.7
Three	92	5.9	71	5.1	74	5.4
Four	7	0.4	16	1.1	22	1.6
Five	5	0.3	3	0.2	3	0.2
Six or more	0	0.0	7	0.5	4	0.3
Missing placement settings	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<u>V. Reason for Discharge</u>						
Reunification/Relative Placement	380	81.9	430	86.9	338	86.2
Adoption	6	1.3	4	0.8	10	2.6
Guardianship	11	2.4	17	3.4	2	0.5
Other	11	2.4	13	2.6	14	3.6
Unknown (missing discharge reason or N/A)	56	12.1	31	6.3	28	7.1
	<u>Number of Months</u>		<u>Number of Months</u>		<u>Number of Months</u>	
<u>VI. Median Length of Stay in Foster Care</u>	25.6 ⁴		17.5 ⁵		Not Yet Reached ⁶	

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FOOTNOTES TO DATA ELEMENTS IN THE PERMANENCY PROFILE

¹The FY00, FY01, and FY02 counts of children in care at the start of the year exclude 84, 81, and 65 children, respectively. They were excluded to avoid counting them twice. That is, although they were actually in care on the first day, they also qualify as new entries because they left and re-entered again at some point during the same reporting period. To avoid counting them as both "in care on the first day" and "entries," the Children's Bureau selects only the most recent record. That means they get counted as "entries," not "in care on the first day."

²We designated the indicator, *17 of the most recent 22 months*, rather than the statutory time frame for initiating termination of parental rights proceedings at *15 of the most 22 months*, since the AFCARS system cannot determine the *date the child is considered to have entered foster care* as defined in the regulation. We used the outside date for determining the *date the child is considered to have entered foster care*, which is 60 days from the actual removal date.

³Dates necessary for calculation of length of time in care in these records are chronologically incorrect. N/A = Not Applicable

⁴ This First-Time Entry Cohort median length of stay was 25.6 months in FY00. This includes no children who entered and exited on the same day (who had a zero length of stay). Therefore, the median stay was not affected by any "same day" children.

⁵ This First-Time Entry Cohort median length of stay was 17.5 months for FY01. This includes no children who entered and exited on the same day (who had a zero length of stay). Therefore, the median stay was not affected by any "same day" children.

⁶ This First-Time Entry Cohort median length of stay is Not Yet Reached for FY02. This includes no children who entered and exited on the same day (they had a zero length of stay). Therefore, the median stay was not affected by any "same day" children.

The designation, Not Yet Reached occurs when a true length of stay for the cohort cannot be calculated because fewer than 50% of the children have exited.